

Village of Homer  
Regular Meeting of Trustees  
February 12, 2024  
7:00pm

Those present: Trustees, Roger Faulkner, Skip James, Ray Ryerson, Mike Johnson, John Dodd, and Matt Seaver, Mayor/ Board President, Jim White, Clerk Sharon Jeffers, Treasure, Cindy Pruitt, Water/ Maintenance, Ryan Byerley, sewer, Tom Parrish, Zoning, Dave Hermes, Attorney, Marc Miller, Farnsworth Engineering, Kevin Hannel, Dennis Cummins, and Sinju, and resident/business owner, Becky Smith.

No public or board comment

Farnsworth Engineering group updated the board on progress of the water treatment plant design phase. They have been working with corrosion control sub consultant. They are also researching reverse osmosis. They will bring their findings to the March meeting.

Minutes: Skip James motioned to approve regular, special funds, projects, recreation and Library minutes as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

Village bills: Ray Ryerson motioned to approve payment of Village bills as presented, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

MFT 2024: Mike Johnson motioned to pass MFT Resolution in the amount of \$59,055.57 for 2024, seconded by Matt Seaver, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

MFT Engineering: Matt Seaver motioned to approve MFT Engineering for 2024 road project, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Railroad water main project: Skip James motioned to pay bills for railroad water main project, R&R-\$10,377.50, Rail pros-\$29,317.00, and Duce Construction-\$170,335.00, to be paid with AARPA, TIF and Water, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Monthly reports: Mike Johnson motioned to approve monthly reports as presented, seconded by Ray Ryerson, all in favor, motion approved.

- Still looking for water loss
- Working on lead line survey
- Cd transferred to a new 3 month cd
- Utilities over on budget
- Cemetery mowers are to be maintained in house

Water tool purchase: Matt Seaver motioned to purchase a hydrant meter and freeze machine from Tolono in the amount of \$1,500.00, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, no, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

2024 fireworks: Matt Seaver motioned to enter into contract with J&M in the amount of \$13,500.00 for July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks, seconded by Roger Faulkner, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, no, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Freedom Music Festival Police Coverage: Roger Faulkner motioned to contract with Champaign Count Sheriffs Department for Police coverage during the July 3 and 4<sup>th</sup> Freedom and Music Festival in the amount of \$89.83 per hour and including travel time, seconded by Mike Johnson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Solar Field Sewer plant: No motion made to approve installation of solar field for sewer plant

Amend land purchase: Matt Seaver motioned to authorize Mayor Jim White to execute the addendum as presented regarding purchase of land for new water treatment plant subject to any modification he deems fit that will benefit the Village, seconded by Mike Johnson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Pickleball fencing: Matt Seaver motioned to purchase fencing for the perimeter of the pickleball courts in the amount not to exceed \$4,000.00 (\$2,000.00 from donations and \$2,000.00 parks line item in TIF), seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Police equipment: Ray Ryerson motioned to declare the 2021 Tahoe as surplus property and authorize the Village Board President to solicit bids for it from governmental bodies and at his option to establish guidelines for bidding it to the public, and motion to declare police vehicle radios and computers as surplus property and transfer them to the Homer Fire Protection district, and motion to declare all ammunition and guns formerly used by the police department as surplus property and authorize the Village President to sell them to another law enforcement agency under terms he deems is in the best interest of the Village, seconded by Mike Johnson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Road Use Agreement: Ray Ryerson motioned to enter into Road Use Agreement with Medanos Solar, Seconded by Matt Seaver, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

Community Benefit Program: Matt Seaver motioned to authorize Board President to negotiate and sign Community Benefit Program for installation of new Storm Drain by Medanos Solar at no cost to the Village, seconded by Ray Ryerson, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, yes, Mike Johnson, no, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

TIF AP Ms Becky's: Roger Faulkner motioned to approve Special Funds Committees recommendation to enter into TIF agreement with Becky Smith/Ms Becky's for new roof in the amount of \$10,000.00 to be paid in \$2,000.00 increments over 5 years, seconded by Matt Seaver, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, yes, Ray Ryerson, recuse, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

TIF Ap Don's Auto: Roger Faulkner motioned to approve Special Funds Committees recommendation to enter into TIF agreement with Don's Auto in the amount of \$3,216.00 for sign rehab to be paid in two increments over two years, seconded by Matt Seaver, roll call vote: Roger Faulkner, yes, Skip James, abstain, Ray Ryerson, recuse, Mike Johnson, yes, John Dodd, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

April meeting to held April 1, 2024

Personnel Committee meeting and evaluations to be held February 27<sup>th</sup> , time to be announced.

Special Funds Committee meeting will be held February 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm

Adjourn: Matt Seaver motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mike Johnson, all in favor.

Adjourn: 8:55pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Village of Homer  
Personnel Committee Meeting  
February 27, 2024  
5:30pm

Those present: Committee members, Mike Johnson, Skip James, and Roger Faulkner, and Mayor Jim White.

Prior to evaluations the committee discussed the possibility of pay increases. They will make decisions following evaluations. They also discussed better ways to accomplish jobs.

Evaluations:

Dave Hermes: Is a 1099 vendor now and will be paid zoning permit fees quarterly.

Sharon Jeffers: All is well. She reported that the janitor is doing ok and the new part time office employee is learning.

Cindy Pruitt: Discussed new auditor and TIF II district.

Tom Parrish: Discussed and recommended putting Jeremy Barker on the Village payroll as extra help for the sewer department.

Dale Katterhenry: He requested a truck upgrade and asked board to appropriate funds from sale of Police vehicle for a new truck and or lift equipment. He also requested that the Village purchase new work clothing.

Ryan Byerley: They will not be hiring youth summer help this year. Dave Ellis will be used for mowing and occasional maintenance jobs when he is required, such as water main breaks, tree trimming, sidewalk repair and replacement, etc. Ryan requested lift equipment (JLG) instead of a bucket truck due to price.

The committee recommended to Ryan that he work closely with the Mayor on larger jobs to ensure that work gets completed also work on keeping up to date on smaller routine maintenance jobs, such as patching roads, Village Hall maintenance, etc.. Playground upgrades and maintenance as budget allows including new mulch.

Committee recommended a 3% across the board pay increase. Salaried personal to be increased based on the 3%, Cyndi James, and Dave Ellis to receive \$.50 per hour increase.

Mayor and Ryan/Maintenance dept to work closer together to ensure work is completed in a timely manner.

Adjourn: 8:23pm

Village of Homer  
Special Funds Committee  
February 20, 2024  
500 E Second St, Homer, IL 61849  
6:00pm

Those present: Mayor Jim White, Clerk, Sharon Jeffers, Committee, Mike Johnson, Matt Seaver, and Skip James, and business owner, David Lucas.

TIF application from Pelican Displays for refurbishing front of building at 109 E First St.

It will be a three year project totally approximately \$30,000.00.

The Village sidewalk will need to be lifted on the building side in 2025

Board Recommendation: Matt Seaver motioned to recommend to the board that we enter into a TIF Agreement in the amount of \$3,000.00 for three years for a total of \$9,000.00, seconded by Skip James, roll call vote: Skip James, yes, Mike Johnson, yes, and Matt Seaver, yes, motion approved.

A quick review of what funds the Railroad main project was being paid from

Adjourn: Mike Johnson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Skip James, all in favor, motion approved. Adjourn, 6:19pm

Posted: Sharon Jeffers, Village Clerk

Homer Recreation Board Minutes  
Tuesday Feb. 6, 2024  
Village Hall

Member present: Perry Dable, Kim Dalle, and Casey Phillips

Called to order: 7:15pm

#### Bingo Fundraiser at Charlies

Set for Sat. March 2 6-8pm and will create Facebook event page after meeting to begin promoting. Discussed who would be in charge of calling, taking money, and verifying winners. Will check with spouses to see if they'd like to lend a hand as we're unsure of how large of a crowd expect at this time.

Decided no entry fee to play but to charge \$1/card per round and guest can choose how many cards they'd like to play each round if they'd like to sit out certain rounds. Winner and house will split buy-in pot for each round. In the event of more than one winner, 50% of the buy-in will be split evenly between them. Discussed the possibility of children attending with playing guests and we will need to decide if we're going to encourage a 21+ crowd only inside of playing room or if the benefits of allowing them outweigh any detractions.

#### Spring Fling Vendor Event

Set for Saturday May 4 8:00am-2:00pm at Village Hall

Kim has emailed the vendors that attended Christmas in Homer to give them first choice for this event. We will open remaining spots to new vendors after Feb. 20 and will create a Facebook event page at that time to begin advertising.

Will reach out to SmithBurger food truck and Travelin' Tom's Coffee first to check their availability for this day.

#### Fundraising for Freedom and Music Festival:

Perry has been working on filling the open music schedule slots and negotiating those contracts. He reported that InBloom has not responded to our counter offer price for hire yet. We discussed Perry and his son filling an afternoon slot as an acoustic duo since his son will be home visiting from Nashville. We are waiting on confirmation from Ancient Ways for the 1-2:30 slot. The time table is still flexible at this time as we hear back from each manager.

Next Meeting: Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024 @ 6:30pm

Homer Recreation Board Minutes  
Tuesday Feb. 20, 2024  
Village Hall

Member present: Sharon Jeffers, Perry Dable, Kim Dalle, and Casey Phillips

Called to order: 7:05pm

#### Bingo Fundraiser at Charlies

Set for Sat. March 2 6-8pm and Facebook event is getting some traction online. Discussed who would be in charge of calling, taking money, and verifying winners. Will check with spouses to see if they'd like to lend a hand as we're unsure of how large of a crowd expect at this time.

We ordered more bingo cards and since there is no entry fee to play, and each card is only a \$1, we want guests to play as many as they'd like. Discussed the possibility of children attending with playing guests and we will need to come up with a plan to ensure we're following the rules with playing while they're sitting in the room.

#### Spring Fling Vendor Event

Set for Saturday May 4 8:00am-2:00pm at Village Hall

Kim has heard back from many vendors and is receiving their applications and payments to hold their spot. SmithBurger is confirmed to attend for the lunch hours 11am-2:00pm and we will reach back out to Travelin' Toms to verify if they're attending and for what hours.

#### Easter Event

The Homer American Legion Auxillary will be holding an Easter event for the kids at the Village Hall on Saturday March 23 1:00-3:00pm but they aren't planning an egg hunt at this time. They are in need of help and a couple of us will be available to assist. We will learn more from them to see what we can do to help with their activity stations.

#### Family Fun Day

New event recreation is planning for around back to school time to encourage Heritage district families and Homer residents to come out for a fun afternoon of traditional games and a picnic.

Event this year is set on Saturday August 17 and we have booked a dj who will also be our announcer for a possible pickleball tournament and any kids' games. Will plan activities later this year and will put together advertising (postcard style mailer) to go out after July's Freedom & Music Festival.

#### Freedom and Music Festival:

Sponsorships are continuing to come in with notable contributions like Gaterade and water from Heartland Coke, and financial assistance from Prospect Bank and the new solar farm that is being developed in Homer.

JT's Tree Service said that they can bring in a monster truck and will contribute sales from rides to the rec board. We asked them to please provide us with more information as that may be an exciting activity that would pull in more attendees of all ages.

Village board approved for the Champaign Co. sheriff's dept to cover the parade and festival security for both days.  
Parade is confirmed for July 4 @ 9:30am and will submit proper notifications and requests to cover crossings during the parade.

We have booked the large tents and decided to drop the inflatables this year due to lack of volunteers to monitor the setup. We are looking at some new activities and entertainment options for the kids such as carnival games and an indoor Magician.

Arts and crafts vendors will be set for the 4th only from 10-5pm. We are working on the food truck lineup and their open/close hours for both days.

Will ask Angela Lawrence to reach out to Wyldewood Cellars to see about us selling wine slushies again and our options.

Fireworks have been paid in full and we have about \$9k in working capital until we receive more financial contributions. Hopeful bingo fundraiser at Charlies is successful as we need to work quickly to make up loss funds from sponsors that have opted out this year.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March. 5, 2024 @ 6:30pm

**Homer Community Library  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Jan. 9, 2024**

**Present:** Jillian Weathers, Chantelle Thompson, Joe Rice, Christine Cunningham Library Director, Becci Powers, Troy Schiff, and Casey Phillips

**Visitors:** David Steckel, here to be sworn in to fill Chris Thompson's open seat on the board

**Call To Order:** Jillian called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

**Public Comment:** none

**Friends of the Library:** Cindy Happ was not present for tonight's meeting

**Secretary's Report:** Becci moved to accept December's minutes as amended, and Joe seconded. Motion carried and report approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Becci reported that the main income source this month was the interest collected from rolling a couple of 3 month CDs over. That accounted for over \$600 of the \$799 brought in.

**Budget Report:** The grand total is \$118,489.53 with a loss of \$2,020.96. Equipment expenditure looks high due to recent computer and tablet purchases, as well as Loss Replacement due to replacing many damaged books and DVDs this year.

**Bills:** Casey moved to approve Visa Debit charges from Amazon and Barnes & Noble totaling \$270.23, Troy seconded, motion carried and approved.

Becci moved to approve \$324.43 for Baker & Taylor and renewal of Swank movie license for \$328 and Joe seconded. Motion carried and approved.

Other bills to note are: IL Dept of Revenue for \$114.20

**Librarian's Report:** See full report for details but it was a relatively quiet month. They have quite a lot of donations that were cataloged or weeded out of circulation and now need help with anchoring a new bookcase to the wall. This was donated by Friends of the Library and will be used to display books for sale. David Steckel volunteered to secure the bookcase.

They are planning to host a Great Puzzle Race this month to celebrate National Puzzle Month and they have already purchased new 500 piece puzzles for the competition that will then be put into circulation. It would be fun to have this be at least an annual event if it is well-received.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Per Capita:** Christine is finishing up the final segments and will email a draft out to the board for review before its due to be submitted on January 20th.



## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Appoint and swear in new trustee:** We appointed David Steckel to Chris Thompson's open seat and David performed the oath of office with Jillian. We have a full board again!

**Annual book award winners:** will be announced January 22

**Family Reading Night:** tabled

**Monical's Fundraiser date request:** Christine will look into how the process was done in the past and Casey will help with organizing.

**IHLS Certification:** done at the end of March

**Get Date for Freshman Orientation:** school does not have date set yet, will follow up

**Set Library cleaning dates:** February 24 1:00-3:00pm and March 16 1:00-3:00pm

**Blind Date with a Book:** will check with Friends of the Library

**Community Survey:** Chantelle and Christine are working together to create the survey. They researched pricing for Every Door Direct Mail by zip code for the towns within our district and this seems like a reasonable cost vs alternative sources to deliver surveys.

**Budget:** board will be reviewing budget soon, tabled tonight

**Adjourn:** Joe moved to adjourn meeting at 7:45pm and David seconded. Motion carried.

Submitted by Casey Phillips, Secretary